

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. – 21. **(Withdrawn)**

22. **(Currently Amended)** A method of treating and/or preventing the side-effects associated with the administration of nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, which method comprises administering to the patient an effective amount of a microorganism, which microorganism at least increases the amount of a COX-1 mRNA in at least one epithelial cell of the subject, wherein the microorganism is *Bifidobacterium* sp. 420.

23. **(Currently Amended)** A method according to claim 22, wherein the microorganism modifies the amount of a thither cyclooxygenase mRNA in said cell.

24. **(Currently Amended)** A method according to claim 22, wherein the microorganism increases the amount of a COX-1 mRNA in said cell, whilst simultaneously decreases the amount of a COX-2 mRNA in said cell.

25. – 27. **(Cancelled)**

28. **(Currently Amended)** A method according to claim 22, wherein the subject is further administered with an effective amount of betaine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof or a betaine replacement compound, wherein said betaine replacement compound is any methyl donor.

29. – 39. **(Withdrawn)**